A LETTER TO A *FRIEND*, (In IRELAND;) CONTAINING A RELATION OF Some Sorrowful INSTANCES of the ſad Effects of INTEMPERANCE, as a Warning to *Young People.*

By THOMAS CHALKLEY.

Prov. xii. ver. 2. *A good Man obtaineth Favour of the Lord: But a Man of wicked Devices will he condemn.*

Ver. 7. *The Wicked are overthrown, and are not: But the Houſe of the Righteous ſhall ſtand.*

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A LETTER

TO A

FRIEND,

In Answer to a

RELATION

OF

Some Conversation

on the Subject of

INDEPENDENCY,

As it Was Lately Given to

Mr. THOMAS CHALKLEY.

A

LETTER

TO A

FRIEND, &c.

My Dear Friend,

IT is long ſince I have had a Line from thee; but not long ſince I thought of thee and thine, with *Friends* of your Nation; where I know the Lord hath a *Seed*, who loves him, and doth delight and deſire to ſerve him, and are accounted to him for a *Choſen Generation*; and that this Generation may *Spread* and *Proſper* in the Earth, is my earneſt Travel in Spirit both Night and Day, at Times and Seaſons: There is alſo an Exerciſe upon my Mind for the *Off-ſpring* of this Seed, the *Children* of thoſe Men and Women, who have confeſſed the Name of Chriſt before Men, in a holy *Self-denying Life*,

and ſober Converſation; and I do certainly know, that many *Pious Souls* join with me in this Exerciſe, bowing the Knee to the Lord of Sabbaths, for the Peace, Proſperity and Eternal Welfare of the preſent *Ariſing Generation*. Oh! How exerciſing it is to good Men and Women, to ſee their YOUTH take thoſe Ways which lead to *Deſtruction*, and go in Company with the Wicked, whoſe Ways lead to the *Utter Ruining* of both Body and Soul, and whoſe Steps take hold on Hell.

IT is a great Evil which many are prone to, (i. e.) *Keeping of Vain and Idle Company*, which has brought many a *Young Man* and *Young Woman* to utter Ruin and Deſtruction, both Body and Soul: How many *Fair* Eſtates have been waſted! How many *Fine Youths* deſtroy'd by keeping *Evil Company*, and by *Exceſs* in Drinking, is really lamentable to conſider! It keeps the *Poor* in *Poverty*, it makes the *Rich* many times *Poor*, and brings both Rich and Poor into Diſgrace; and which is more, it breaks and deſtroys the *Health* and natural good *Conſtitution* of the Body, and inſtead thereof fills it with *Miſery* and Pain; and which is yet more, it deſtroys the *Soul*, which is the moſt noble

Part

Part of the Man; ſo that it is a ſore three-fold Evil, but the laſt the worſt, by how much the *Soul* is the more laſting and better Part: Several Terrible Inſtances of this Nature I've met with, in my Travels among the Children of Men; Three or Four of which I may inform thee of; and it may be affecting to thee, as it hath often been to my Mind, when I have thought thereon.

The Firſt Inſtance of a Young Man, *given to Ill Company and Hard Drinking.*

THE Firſt is a certain *Beautiful Young Man*, a *Phyſician* by Profeſſion, who was much addicted to *ill Company*, and to *drink hard*, and was ſometimes viſited with *ſtrong Convictions*; in one of which Viſitations he ſent for me, and told me his Condition, and made *ſolemn Covenants, If God would but that once ſpare him, he would not do the like Evil again*: At that time it did pleaſe the Almighty to ſpare him; but he ſoon forgat how it had been with him, and fell into the ſame *Sin* again; although he had a moſt notable Admonition in a *Dream*, but a little before. His Dream was this, which is very remarka-

ble, we being then at Sea, in ſight of *Great Britain.* He ſaw in his Dream a great and ſpacious Town, the Building high, and Streets broad; at which he landed, and going up the Street, he eſpied a large Sign, on which was written, in great golden Letters, *SHAME*, to which he went, and at the Door ſtood a Woman, with a Cann of Drink in her Hand; who asked him to drink, to which he reply'd, *With all his Heart, for he ſaid he had drank nothing but Water a great while.* So he took the Cann and drank a hearty Draught, which as he ſaid *Made him merry*, and he went reeling up the Street, when behold, on a ſuddain, a grim Fellow met him, and Arreſted him in the Name of the Governour of the Place, before whom he brought him; this Governour, he ſaid, was like a great *Black Dog*, the largeſt that ever he ſaw, who grinned at him, and paſt Sentence on him, and ſent him to Priſon, there to lie for ever. He told me this Dream with ſuch an *Emphaſis*, as made me to tremble; which was thus interpreted to him; I told him, That he was an ingenuous Young Man, and might eaſily diſcern the Interpretation of this Dream, which to me ſeem'd to be ominous to him, *The*

great

great Town and high Buildings, is thy great and high Profeſſion; the Sign, on which SHAME *was writ, with the Woman with the Cann at the Door, ſheweth the* Great Shame *of the Sin of* Drunkenneſs, *and that it is thy Weakneſs; and that grim Fellow, that arreſted thee, is* Death, *who will Arreſt all Mortals; and the great black Dog, the Governour of the Place, is the* Devil: *who, when his Servants have ſerved him to the laſt, will torment them for ever:—God forbid, it is but a Dream,* was his Anſwer to me; I ſaid, It was a very ſignificant one to him.

ABOUT three Days after the ſaid Perſon went on Board a Ship, whoſe Lading was *Wine* and *Brandy*; the Maſter gave a *Cann* of Wine to him, and ſaid the ſame Words, as the Woman ſaid to him in his Dream, and he anſwer'd with the ſame Expreſſions, and it had the ſame Effect upon him; for he took ſuch a hearty Draught as made him *too merry*, inſomuch that he overſet the Boat, and was drown'd, *much in Drink*: And I ſeeing him ſink down, and his *Dream* ſo punctually fulfilled, I was very heavy in my Mind for ſeveral Days.

Oh! Methinks I could wiſh that the many Righteous Judgments of the Moſt High, might effectually work on the Hearts

of those People, who are in the Flower of their Age, to their Conversion and Salvation.

The Second Instance, of a Merchant, addicted to the like destructive Practices.

THE Second is of a Merchant, about Thirty-five Years of Age, who I saw take leave of, and bid adieu to, this World: He was one who had spent much time in keeping *unprofitable Company* and *over-Drinking*, which Practice wasted his Strength and Flesh, as it did his Time and Money, and brought him into a deep Consumption; as it has done many to my certain Knowledge; besides bringing the racking painful Distemper of the *Gout*, and many other Miseries, so that at last it brought him to his Chamber, and then to his Bed: And in his Sickness, he several times sent for me, and made serious Acknowledgments of his *Former mis-pent time, and hop'd if the Lord would spare him, to be more careful for the time to come.* But he was no longer to be trusted here in this World; for he went not out until he was carried in his Coffin; he held my Hand fast in his

his until he died, and was ſenſible to the laſt

ONE Day as he lay on his Death-Bed, he call'd me to him, into his Chamber, and ſaid, *I charge thee, to caution the Young People to be careful how they keep (and ſpend their Time in)* Evil Company, *for it had been his Ruin, and now lay as a great and heavy Burden on his Conſcience: Oh!* ſays he, *if they did but feel, one Quarter of an Hour, what I feel, they would never keep ſuch Company any more; Tell this to my former Companions.*

AND indeed there is a great deal of hurt done by *Young Men* getting together to drink Wine, or other ſtrong Drinks: I wiſh the Wo, mentioned in Holy Scriptures, may not be the Portion of many of them; *Who are mighty to drink Wine, and Men of Strength, to mingle ſtrong Drink*; and ſit late at it, which many times brings *Sufferings* on Parents, Wife, Children, and Servants, as well as themſelves: And is a very Diſorderly Practice, being a *Reproach* to all Chriſtian Societies and Families, where-ever ſuch Things are.

THERE is a great Concern upon me againſt this *Growing Evil* in our *Young Generation*; and I hope, in Chriſt our Lord, that

that divers *Heads* of Families will come under the like Exerciſe in themſelves: And then, if our *Youth* will neither hear nor Fear, the LORD nor Us, we ſhall be clear, and their Blood will be on their own Heads; as a worthy and Honourable Elder, and Man of God, (of your Nation) ſaid; One of whoſe Off-ſpring is the Subject of the Third Particular, that I ſhall mention to thee, of the many I have been acquainted with, in my Pilgrimage here, in, and on this Part of the Globe of the Earth and Sea, for theſe are but few Inſtances, of many that I have met withal: I may therefore thus proceed.

The third Inſtance, of another Young Man, *who much imbraced the ſame Deſtroying* DELIGHTS.

THE Fifth of the *Firſt-Month*, at *Bridge-Town*, in *Barbadoes*, *S. E.* Son of *W. E.* died: His Death was ſudden; and, as was reaſonably ſuppoſed, he deſtroyed himſelf by *Drinking*, and *Undue Company-keeping*, and ſitting long at it. A Perſon, to whom he himſelf had told it, told me, "That he and Four more, "at one Sitting, drank above Twenty "Quarts

"Quarts of Double-distilled Rum-Punch;
"which put him into a violent Fea-
"ver; ſo that he ran about the Street,
with a Naked Sword, and talked of Kill-
ing one of the Neighbours, in this Drunk-
en Fit. The next Day he came to me,
and asked me, *Whoſe Door the Blood would
have lain at, if he had, in that Fit of Diſor-
der, Killed any Body?* By which Query, I
thought he was not yet rightly come to
himſelf: Becauſe there were but ordinary
Reports went about the Town concerning
him, he reckoned thoſe, who broach'd and
ſpread thoſe Reports, would have been
Culpable, and muſt have anſwered for *His
Murder*, if he had committed any: But this
was but covering his Sin.

HE ſeem'd to fall-out with *Religion* too;
for he ſaid, *He would come no more to Wor-
ſhip with us, till he ſhould have Juſtice done
him, as to thoſe Reports*: Though, poor
Soul, he had the more need to preſent him-
ſelf before his MAKER, and bow before
the Moſt High GOD, and Repent in great
Humiliation. The ſame Day in which he
Neglected his Duty, he was taken Sick, and
that Day-Week was Buried. He ſent for
me, and I went to him: He had but little
Senſe of his End, as I could perceive, and
re-

remained ſo to the Night he died. I was by him when he died, and ſaw him fetch his *Laſt Breath.* A few Minutes before he gave up the Ghoſt, he Trembled and ſhook exceedingly, and Scricked-out, to the Aſtoniſhment of all thoſe preſent, which pierced my very Soul within me: For he ſeemed to go out of the World in an extream great Agony.

I NEVER ſaw any depart the World any ways like him; and indeed it was very amazing, and greatly affected my Mind with Sorrow: For I thought he was very unfit to die. Oh! Methinks I could heartily wiſh, that ſuch Objects might be as ſo many ſtrong Motives, to ſtir up and awaken the *Off-ſpring* of good Men, and vertuous Women, (as alſo any Profeſſing *Chriſtianity)* to Fear the LORD, and walk in his Ways, whoſe *Ways* lead to *Life,* in which the Sting of Death is taken away.

THE *Children* of Godly Parents have much to anſwer for, in *Slighting* or Neglecting the wholſome Counſel, Good Advice, and faithful Admonition of their faithful and careful Parents; whom they *Diſgrace* and *Diſhonour,* contrary to the *Command* of GOD, who ſays, *Honour thy Parents, that thy Days may be long in the Land*

Land, which the LORD *thy* GOD *giveth thee:* And none can truly Honour their *Parents,* who *Diſhonour* GOD, their MAKER.

The Fourth Inſtance, of a Young Woman *who often Abſented herſelf from Meetings, for the ſake of much Bad Company.*

THE Fourth Inſtance, which I ſhall give thee, is concerning a *Young Woman,* of about Twenty Five Years of Age; who was brought up very Finely, Tenderly and Delicately, with her *Lockets,* and *Chains* of *Gold,* and *Waiting-Maid:* But her Parents, living *too high* for their *Income, Broke* in People's Debt; and their *Children,* as they grew up, were put to their *Shifts.* What pity it is! That *Youth* are not brought up to ſome *Buſineſs,* whereby they may get a *Livelihood* in the World, if their Parents ſhould drop before them: And though Parents may have a handſome Intereſt in this World, yet it has been thought by ſome Great as well as *Wiſe Men,* That to put out *Youths* to *Trades* and Buſineſs, is both *Profitable* and *Honourable;* Inſtances, of the *Evil Conſequences* of the contrary, have been very many, as woe-

ful

ful Experience doth daily teach us: And this *Young Woman* was one; for falling into *Evil Company*, ſhe ran into *Debt*, and was put in Priſon; where was a *Murderer*, whom, it's ſaid, ſhe was Acceſſary to *Looſe from his Chains*; and for ſo doing, was put *in Chains* herſelf, along with him, when he was taken again: And now, inſtead of her *Gold Chain*, ſhe muſt take up with an *Iron* one; and in a little time is to be *Tried for her Life*, and in Expectation of *Death*; and being in great Diſtreſs, ſhe ſent for me, and intreated me to come and ſee her die, and much Lamented her Condition: *Oh!* ſaid ſhe, *That I might be a Warning to all* Young People, *to be careſull that they keep not* Evil Company, *and ſpend their Time, which ſhould be ſpent in Worſhip in airy Company, and other vain Diverſions, when they ſhould be doing their* Duty *to GOD*: And then ſhe would weep bitterly, ſhe being very Penitent: It very much affected me; and I told her, *That I did believe, if ſhe, in her Heart, was clear, her Life would be given her: But then, Woe and Miſery would be her Portion, if ſhe did not Amend her Ways.* And, as I was leaving her, ſhe charged me, *To warn* Young People *that they might be careful that they ſpend not*

their

their Time in Vanity, and to keep out of Vain *and* Wicked Company; *which,* she said, *had brought her to that* Misery *and* Shame: *And that they should take the Counsel and Advice of* Good FRIENDS; *which if I had done,* said she, *I had not brought* Reproach *on my Friends, and on my Parents.*

IN a little time after, she was brought to Trial, and *Acquitted* by the Jury. I saw her once since, and reminded her of her *Duty*; which, she said, *She hoped to Perform; and that it should be a Warning to her, while she lived in this World:* And that such *Examples* may be a *WARNING* to all People, is the earnest Desire of a LOVER of SOULS, and a Servant of *JESUS*,

T. C.

Barbadoes, the 7th of the *First-Month*, 1718,-19.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE I writ the above, there being a Person in this Place, who sometimes would be Over-taken in *Drink*, I sent it to him, to Copy over, hoping it might have some good Effect on him: And truly, before

fore he had copy'd the Relation of the First Person, he was so *Smitten*, with the Sense of the *Judgments* of the ALMIGHTY, that he cried out, even to Roaring, and said, *He was a Condemned Person, and that he felt the Fire of Hell.* He sent for me, and several others, and begg'd of us, to Pray for him: He was told, "That the Hand "of GOD was upon him for his *Sin*, and "desired to take *Warning* in time, and Re-"pent, lest the LORD should cut him off in "his Iniquity:" He promised *To be more Faithful for the time to come*; and at this present writing these few Lines, he is under deep *Inward Exercise* of Mind. I mention this. as a Corroboration of the above *Instances*, for further Admonition. This Person is in a considerable *Post*, in this Government: His Name I forbear to mention, for divers Reasons. If thou and *Friends* see meet, I could desire, from the Exercise that is on my Mind, that this might be spread; peradventure it might be some Speak upon some, for their Good.

FINIS.